

transness

queercore

zines



Hi! Thanks for picking up this zine.

for the uninitiated...

queercore is a queer punk subcultural and socio-political multimedia movement that arose in the mid-1980s that's underground, decentralized, and built largely on anti-assimilationist **anarcho-queer** politics.

zines are small-circulation, self-published pieces of media typically composed of prose, art, collage, and more, like what you're reading right now!



During Summer 2022, I read over 140 queercore zines published from 1984 until today, totalling over 4,900 pages. I wanted to know how representations of gender variance have changed in the subculture over time. I wrote a ~5000 word research paper, but this zine is my attempt to simplify and disseminate the trends that I found.

Radical queer history is valuable,
and trans history belongs within it.

transness in 80s zines mostly surrounds gender expression, experimentation, and cross-dressing.

23). After having done a lot of reading, talking, and thinking about sexuality, feminism, and gender roles and rules, I've started experimenting with my appearance, specifically the way I dress. I almost always wear long, dangly earrings in both ears, and I sometimes wear a skirt. The amount of hostility this "femme" attire evokes is incredible. Wearing a skirt here in Hoboken is taking my life in my hands, and it's not much different in New York. I'm not really surprised at peoples reaction to a man in a skirt, but the amount of attention the earrings alone attract is pretty incredible.

Homocore #3, 1989, ed. Tom Jennings


Well, the fun never stops. The Frogs don't discriminate, slagging prostitutes, transsexuals, lesbians - any difference will do. And why not? When you're free, white, and 21, you can afford to take pot-shots at the freaks.

J.D.S #6, 1989, ed. GB Jones & Bruce LaBruce




Drag can be better than acid. Drag is better than acid. Unfortunately drag is expensive. Even with thrift stores. Besides I always have a bitch of a time finding womens' clothes in my size.

But drag (I always use the term in regard to cross-gender dressing. I'm an old-fashioned guy) also allows a freedom of liberation that you can't get anywhere else.

Homocore #5, 1989, ed. Ton Jennings

 Homocore #2, 1988,
ed. Tom Jennings

*I'm not a boy or a girl. Maybe
something in between. And I'm not
from that leg at the bottom of the sea.
I wasn't born in the belly of a whale of
a girl. I'm not a man in a can from the
barrel of a gun. I was born in a house
with a grass and some tree. When that
mad fag scientist dropped his ash son of
a gun ... Your heart is big and redder
than mine.
("Because Tiffany Feels")*



a little less frequently, there were people in
queercore that asserted themselves as having
non-normative genders (above.) there was also
some crossover between queercore zines and
underground trans-centric publishing (below.)

GENDER EXPRESSIONS (various) (Box 2434, Woburn MA
01888) \$5.95 First, this is not a punk zine, it's more like a
magazine, but it seems to be made up of reader-submitted
articles, interviews, etc.




This is a serious discussion zine for the "gender community",
ie. people not happy with their gender, how people deal
with isolation, societal hassles, and what people do/want to
do about it. But the articles on femininity and drag are
hardly trans-sexual subjects only; neither are stories of gender
and status in north american native cultures, gender and
entertainment (TV, music, etc), sex-related job discrimination,
fiction... hmmm. Obviously there are also many things mainly
of interest to trans-sexual people - physically changing gender
or not - such as hassles from medical fascists, medical
procedures, contact info, resource guides, Friendship Ads, etc.
They also run a free BBS, if you've got a computer and modem:
FEMINET - (408)-335-4387, 300/1200/2400 24hrs.

This is radical shit, not retread P.C. sexual politics junk, out of
necessity! Wanna see some unique views on gay liberation?!

GenX is a bit pricey to get just to glance at, but if sex-role and
gender issues are important to you, then it's worth it. tj

Homocore

#5, 1989,
ed. Tom
Jennings



in the 90s, some zines published gender-related education pages, and often encouraged more trans folks to be present in queercore scenes.

mal. What I dislike even more are people who think normal is good and abnormal is bad. The norm is only an average, a standard, and no moral judgement is implied.)

DEVIANT : Is a statistical deviation from the norm. Again, no moral judgement is implied. Cross dressing is deviant behaviour because it deviates from the norm, and I'm a deviant person-and proud of it!

"Yeah, but Azalea, this she has a dick."

"Yeah, well fuck the AMA. Who needs to pay half a million to have a cunt when you can be a happy woman and keep the cash? Vagina fudge-ina."

"I thought the only women who'd sleep with trannies were frustrated fag hags."

Azalea kicked me in the balls and walked away.

Holy Titclamps #8,

1991, Larry-Bob

Fuzz Box, 1990,
Nicholas Jenkins

Bad enough. Faggots are also called upon to stretch across the "sexuality gap" and educate straights about our lives and needs. It is the responsibility of the oppressed to teach the oppressor their mistakes. This is an old and powerful tool of all oppressors to keep the oppressed occupied with the masters' concerns. Then we ask gay men of Color (or lesbians, bisexuals, transgenderists, leatherfags, etc.) to educate us white fags. This diverts energy and attention and is a repetition of racist, divisionist patriarchal thought.

Your Face My Ass #3, 1994, Kevin

LESLIE FEINBERG is the author stone butch blues, and transgender liberation. stone butch blues is published by firebrand and can be purchased at giovanni's or borders or tower books (in phila.). transgender liberation is a pamphlet, i bought it at giovanni's. LESLIE FEINBERG came out as a butch in the early 60's in buffalo. there she became a factory worker and joined the world workers party. in the early 70's she entered a female-to-male transexual program which she has written and spoken about. LESLIE FEINBERG is a dedicated activist, a brilliant writer, and she is GORGEOUS!!!

Recitance and Anxiety, 1993

there were also beginning to be more discussions of representation, identity, and more **complex** political issues.

TRASH: THAT'S GREAT. I LOVE THAT. BUT, I DONT REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS ALL ABOUT. I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHY I DO WHAT I DO. USED TO ALWAYS JUST PUT ON SIDE BURNS WHEN I WENT OUT BECAUSE ITS A PART OF ME. ITS HOW I FEEL. THE COMBINATION OF BOTH THE MALE AND THE FEMALE. IF I WERE BORN INTO A MALE'S BODY I PROBABLY WOULD BE MORE FEMININE THAN I AM NOW. I LIKE PLAYING WITH ALL THESE THINGS. WHEN PEOPLE STARTED FOCUSING ON IT AND TELLING ME WHAT I WAS DOING . . . I HADN'T REALLY GIVEN IT ANY CONSCIOUS THOUGHT. I WAS JUST DOING IT. IT WAS JUST EXPRESSION. I LIKE CREATING AN ILLUSION AND PLAYING WITH ALL OF THAT GENDER WHICH IS MOVING SO FAST. A "GENDER WEAVER" IS WHAT I CALL IT Pussy Grazer, 1991, Thing & Orgasm

Whining lesbians and gay men, I have no respect for you. You struggle to uphold a world which I am seeking to dismantle. Your lesbian and gay political activism is embroiled in a nationalist fervour, a sexist rhetoric, a gendered world-view. We have nothing in common, and I will fight against you as much as I fight against them. The warning has been issued: if you're not going to struggle against the military, you are the enemy.

Q.T. #4, 1993, QT Kollektive

P.S. I want to, need to help the homocore cause. Please write about T.S.'s. Don't leave us out. We're queer too. Outpunk #2, 1993, ed. Wobbensmith

7. As a spokesperson for Queer Nation - Ottawa, he publicly denied the presence of drag queens, femme men, gender-fuckers and other freaks within "queer" communities. (see article this issue) This is radical politics, Jim? Watch it - the revenge of the perverts will be swift and severe. And remember, there's nothing worse than an angry drag queen!

8. Jim Wade thinks "****" in

Q.T. #2, 1992, QT Kollektive



there have always been queers in punk.

there have always been trans folks in queercore.

being nonbinary, a gender-fucker, a dykefag or fagdyke, butch, transsexual, genderqueer, agender, genderfluid, etc etc etc, is heavenly.

What's your gender?

When did you decide that?

How much say do you have in your gender?

Is there anything about your gender or gender role that you don't like, or that gets in your way?

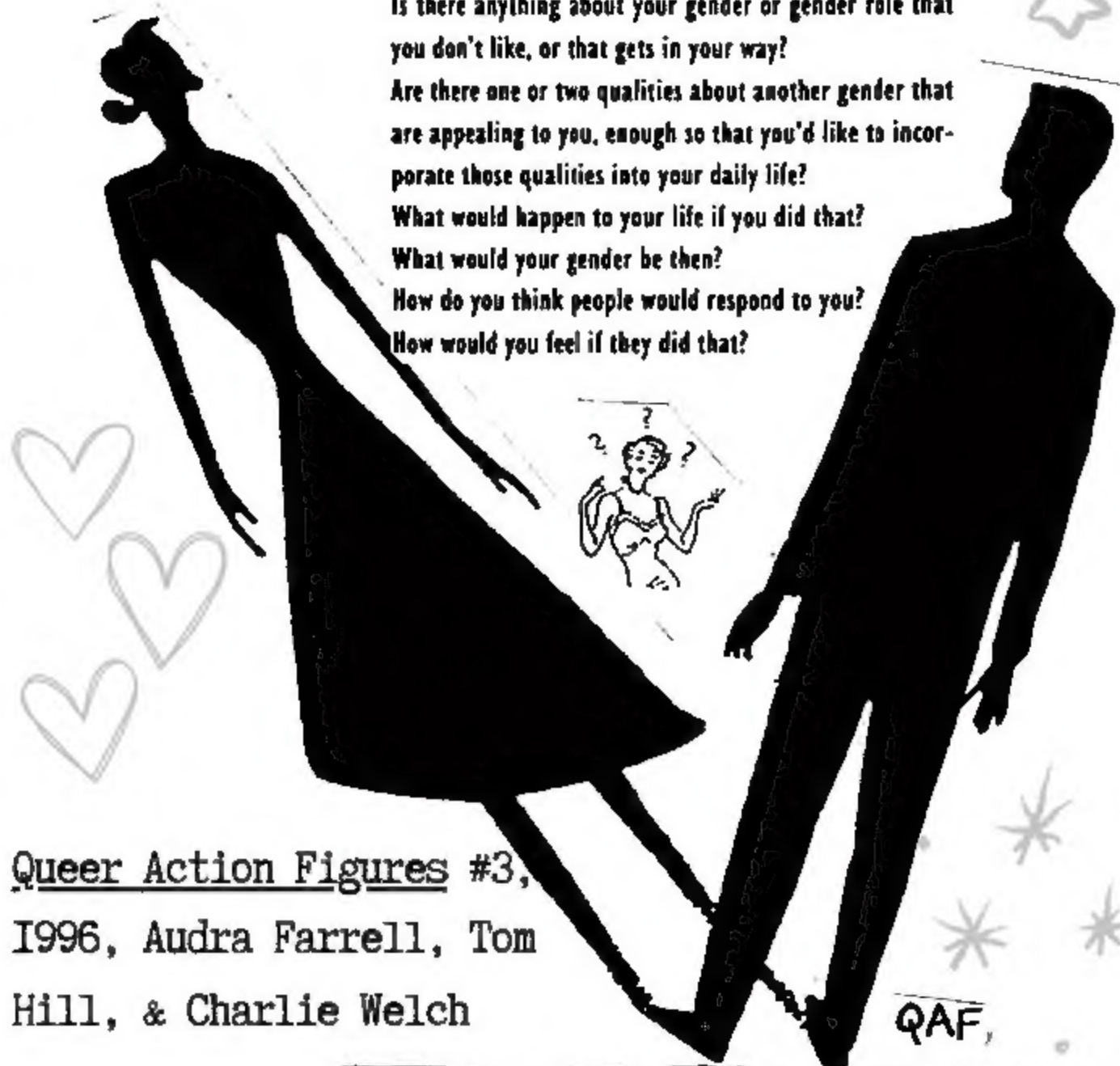
Are there one or two qualities about another gender that are appealing to you, enough so that you'd like to incorporate those qualities into your daily life?

What would happen to your life if you did that?

What would your gender be then?

How do you think people would respond to you?

How would you feel if they did that?



Queer Action Figures #3,
1996, Audra Farrell, Tom
Hill, & Charlie Welch

Gender Activism Begins With Gender Rage

all this is only a sample.

if you're interested in my research, more
zines, or anything else, please write to me
at graveyardpansy@gmail.com !

resources for further exploration include...

- the Queer Zine Archive Project, qzap.org
- Homocore, archived at
sr-ix.com/Archive/HOMOCORE/index.html
- J.D.s, archived at
archive.org/details/j.d.s
- the DTA, digitaltransgenderarchive.net
- Queercore by Curran Nault, Routledge, 2018
- Queercore How to Punk a Revolution: An Oral History, Warfield et al., PM Press, 2021.

and check out ur local abortion fund, prison
abolition group(s), and/or food not bombs. <3

our rage is warranted.
refuse to assimilate.

a zine by graveyardpansy